



# The Christ Courier

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*The Monthly Newsletter of Christ Episcopal School*

December, 2023

## Preparing for Christmas . . .

by Catherine Oliver, Head of School



As we move closer to the celebration of Christ's birth, we are in the church's liturgical season of Advent. The word **Advent** means "coming" or "visit". During Advent, we anticipate and prepare for the coming of Christ and focus on our own longing for something greater and our need for forgiveness, salvation, and a new beginning. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas, beginning this year on Sunday, December 3rd, and ending on Christmas Eve. Like Lent, Advent is a preparatory season. The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of baby Jesus and the anticipation of His coming again.

I hope this season of Advent and Christmas holds its true meaning and purpose for you and your family. On behalf of the entire faculty and staff of Christ Episcopal School, I wish you and yours a blessed, safe, and joyous Advent and Christmas seasons.



## CHRISTMAS DECORATORS!

Kindergarten moms Claire Drewery and Anna Dunn, along with Haven Minter, sprinkled Christmas all around CES by decorating the School Hall, hallways, and Kindergarten classroom with candy canes, snowflakes, and nutcrackers, among other things. Many thanks to them for getting us into the Christmas spirit!



## School Christmas Declamation

All students in PreK-3 to Grade 5 participate in the Christmas Declamation Service on Tuesday, December 12th at 5:30 pm. The service is being held at Christ Episcopal Church. Students wear church or Christmas dress clothes. Arrive between 5:10 pm and 5:20 pm. Please mark your calendars NOW.



## NATIVE AMERICAN ART

**Mrs. Tucker's 1st grade class** learned about the first Thanksgiving. The Native American tribe that is most closely associated with this event is the Wampanoag. The Wampanoag people are known for their beautiful pottery. The students gathered leaves, sticks, pine straw, feathers, and acorns in order to use them as paint brushes to decorate their own pottery illustrations. They are displayed in the hallway for all to see.

**Thank you** for participating in the Parent Association fall fundraiser! The Great American Fundraiser has earned the school \$3,058. We hope you and others enjoy the cookies and other items. Your hard work and your generosity in purchasing them mean so much and help the school a great deal.



## We LOVE our Veterans!

Before Thanksgiving break, Ms. Findley's 3rd graders had special visitors to their classroom. Local veterans visited and shared some of their experiences serving our country with the class. The students were extremely interested and asked many in depth questions about their service. After their visit, the veterans shared how impressed they were about how kind, polite, and inquisitive the CES 3rd graders were. We are grateful for their service and devotion to our country.

## Mission Statement

Christ Episcopal School is a diverse community of learners who participate in an enriched academic program in a nurturing Christian environment which fosters a dedication to service to others and a love of lifetime learning.



## Thankful for Service-Learning!



**Mrs. Bisping's 2nd Graders** joyously collected items for boys and girls around the world by participating in Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse. The boxes were donated in partnership with First Baptist Church of Nacogdoches. Knowing that children in need will be receiving Christmas presents over the holidays made the 2nd graders truly happy. Participating in service learning projects make our students more aware and understanding of real world situations and how we/they can help. All of our grade levels have service learning projects going on throughout the year. As a result of service learning, students learn more about the community, and themselves, while fulfilling needs throughout our community and in some cases, other communities as well.

### "Once Upon a Time" CES 2024 Auction Volunteer Opportunities

2024 Auction Co-Chairs, **Carrie Gilcrease** and **Jena Rhodes** need your help to make the auction a memorable event. There are several ways you can help make it a big success. It will take place on **Saturday, April 27, 2024**, at the Hotel Fredonia @ 6:00 pm. Join us for an enjoyable night of food, fun, & fundraising.

#### Here are some suggestions as to how you can help:

1. Volunteer to help set up the Auction at the Hotel Fredonia. Call the school office @ 564-0621 to volunteer.
2. On your own, or with another parent in your grade level, offer to host a special party for a specific age group as an auction item.
3. You may have a piece of art/print or special edition book, toy, lamp, jewelry, etc. to donate for the live or silent auction or a drop box item.
4. If you have a contact with a business or individual who would donate an item or money for the Auction, please email us at [cesauction2024@gmail.com](mailto:cesauction2024@gmail.com) or contact **Carrie Gilcrease at 409-960-1539** or **Jena Rhodes at 936-275-6309**.

5. Help fill your child's class theme basket with items to be auctioned off that evening.

6. Gather up four couples from your grade level and purchase a Sponsorship table @ \$750 or \$1,000—special "goodies" are included with the purchase of a Sponsorship table.

#### Reminders:

1. The cost per CES parent is \$35.00 per person, reduced from the regular \$50 per person.
2. Free baby-sitting is available the night of the Auction in the preschool building from 5:30-11:30 pm for CES students & their siblings—3 yrs. old (must be toilet trained) and up to age 12. Pizza, popcorn, games, and movies will be available.

### Be a Part of our Next Chapter



#### - ANNUAL GIVING FUND -



The goal of this year's Annual Giving Fund is \$15,000. Every gift, regardless of size, contributes to the growth and development of our students' educational experiences. We strive for 100% participation from the CES community: parents, grandparents, trustees, faculty and staff. Make a difference! Consider your gift to the Annual Fund today.



Facebook: @ChristEpiscopalSchoolTX  
Instagram: @ces\_nacogdoches

Please visit our social media pages to find wonderful pictures and news of what is happening at our fabulous school!  
Share with your family members and friends!

If you have not visited the school's website in a while,  
[www.ces-nac.org](http://www.ces-nac.org), please do!

### DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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|--------------------------------|--|
| Wednesday, <b>December 6</b>   | - Last Wednesday Chapel to bring canned goods for H.O.P.E. until 2024<br>- Faculty Meeting, 3:30 pm        |
| Tuesday, <b>December 12</b>    | - Christmas Declamation<br>Christ Episcopal Church<br>5:30 pm (students arrive at 5:20 pm)                 |
| Wednesday, <b>December 13</b>  | - School Board Meeting, 6 pm   |
| Wednesday, <b>December 19</b>  | - "Jolabokafloð" book/pajama day   |
| Wednesday, <b>December 20</b>  | - Christmas Around the World<br>School Hall<br>- All School Dismissal 11:30 am<br>- <u>No Extended Day</u> |
| Monday, <b>January 8, 2024</b> | - Return to school   |